

colours, the male seemed to have the lazuline blue of the throat carried entirely over the breast, instead of being confined to the throat.

Mr. Slater laid before the Meeting the skins of the two specimens of the Subcylindrical Hornbill (*Buceros subcylindricus*), which had been formerly living in the Society's Gardens¹, and stated that a re-examination of these specimens had confirmed his opinion as to the validity of the species. In the second specimen, which had died on the 9th June 1881, although the tail was imperfect, it was manifest that the two central tail-feathers were black almost to their tips as in the first specimen; and the well-defined ashy margins of the feathers on both sides of the head were alike in both examples. It was likewise of great interest to find that an example of this Hornbill had been recently received by the Imperial Museum of Vienna² in a collection made by Dr. Emin Bey between Lado and the Albert Nyanza in Central Africa, so that we were now acquainted with the true locality of this rare species.

Mr. Slater proposed to arrange for the deposit of these typical specimens in the British Museum.

The following papers were read :—

1. Description of a new Species of Tortoise (*Geoemyda impressa*) from Siam. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, V.P.Z.S.

[Received March 20, 1882.]

The British Museum has received from Siam the shell of a fresh-water Turtle without any other part of the animal, which seems to be undescribed. It is 11 inches long; and sufficiently resembles the shells of *Geoemyda spinosa* and *G. grandis* to warrant the supposition that this species belongs to the same genus. It may be named *Geoemyda impressa*, from the peculiar shape of the principal upper plates, which are not merely flat, but distinctly concave.

The shell is much depressed and broadly flattened above. Its anterior margin is deeply excised in front of the nuchal plate, and serrated; also the lateral marginals project slightly at their posterior corners, and the hind margin is deeply and regularly serrated. The plates are nearly smooth; but concentric striation is distinct, especially on the costals. Of a vertebral keel the faintest possible trace is visible on the fourth or fifth vertebral. The sternum is excised in front, and deeply notched behind; its width between the front

¹ See P. Z. S. 1870, p. 668, pl. xxxix.; 1871, p. 489, and 1879, p. 550.

² Cf. Von Pelzeln, "Ueber eine Sendung von Vögeln aus Central-Afrika," Verh. k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. Wien, 1881, p. 153.

Fig. 1.

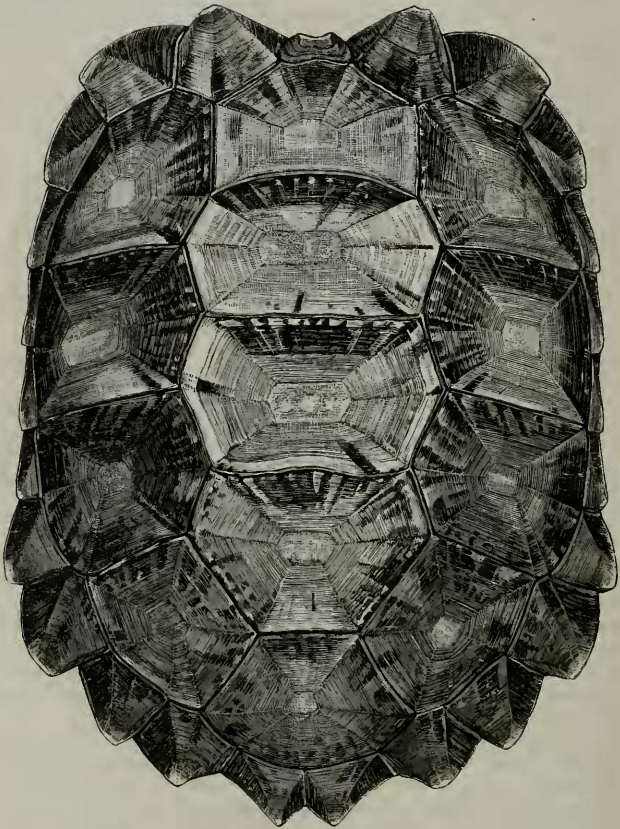
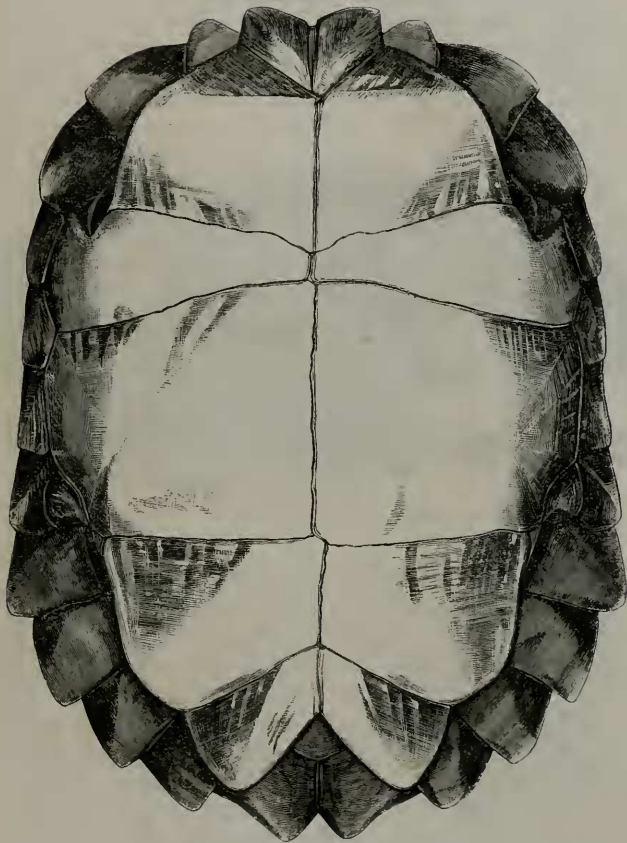
*Geoemyda impressa* (upper surface).

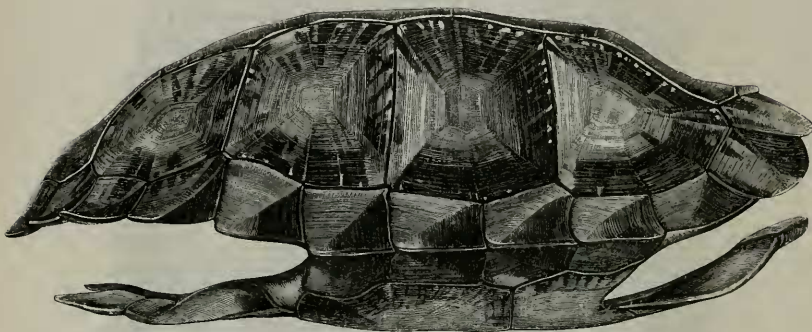
Fig. 2.

*Geoemyda impressa* (lower surface).

incisions is equal to that between the hinder, and a little more than one half of its length.

Areolæ distinct. Nuchal plate broad, much broader behind than in front, with truncated anterior margin. First vertebral much broader than long, concave, with parallel lateral margins; second, third, and fourth very much broader than long; posterior margin of the fourth only half as long as anterior; fifth vertebral but slightly broader than long, and rather convex behind. Caudal divided. Costals deeply impressed in their areolar portion, more so than the vertebrals. Gulars subrhomboid, but rather irregular,

Fig. 3.



Geocemyda impressa (side view).

joined at an obtuse angle in front and behind. Postgulars enlarged at the expense of the pectorals, which are very narrow, the length of their median suture being only one fourth of the suture between the postgulars. Abdominals very large, as long as the preceding three pairs of plates together. Præanals broader than long. Anals similar in shape to the gulars, but larger, and joined at an acute angle posteriorly.

The prominent colour is yellow in the areolar portion, but each of the vertebral, costal, and sternal plates is ornamented towards the margin with broad black radiating bands, and the anterior half or third of each of the marginals is black.